

## MIDDLE EAST &amp; SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

3 MAY 1984

## Lebanon

**Arrested Israelis** — Israel will take a "very serious view" of any Syrian attempt to pin "false accusations" on the three Israelis arrested on Lebanese soil. It regards the Syrian Government as responsible for their safety and well-being. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir declared in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio. He said Israel expects the Syrians to release the three as soon as possible but admitted that appeals through "various" countries have thus far proved fruitless. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq Ash-Shar' disclosed in a statement reported by Radio Monte Carlo that the captured Israelis have been transferred to Damascus and will be treated as prisoners of war according to the Geneva convention. An *AL-BATH* commentary reviewed by Damascus radio said the Israelis were a "terrorist cell" working in coordination with the CIA to help implement the "terrorist plan" embodied in President Reagan's "Directive 138" of 3 April. In another report, the radio said the Israelis provided information on their role in "killing and destruction against Arab citizens and the population in the occupied territories."

Defense Minister Moshe Arens said in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio that the Lebanese Army was either persuaded or forced to turn the three men over to the Syrians and this was "totally improper." The three were detained for 3 hours in the Lebanese Army headquarters in Al-Batrun before being handed over to the Syrians, the radio asserted. Beirut radio cited reports by eyewitnesses and security sources that the Israelis were directly arrested by Syrian soldiers after their vehicle was disabled by gunfire in which one of the Israelis was wounded. Available information indicates that the incident was engineered by Israel to "pave the way for aggression" against Syria, the radio charged. An official Lebanese source also claimed that Israel ignored official requests for the closure of the Israeli liaison office north of Beirut, according to the radio.

**Political Situation** — Nabih Birri, Walid Junblatt, and 'Abdallah ar-Rasi did not attend the new government's first Cabinet meeting in Beirut, but Prime Minister Rashid Karami said on the Voice of Lebanon radio that he is confident they will "shoulder the responsibility" and take up the Cabinet posts offered them. He stressed that the small Cabinet should be viewed as an "emergency and salvation committee" in which ministers be will not merely specialists but will be responsible for jointly formulating general policy. Radio Monte Carlo disclosed that Birri may be induced to join the Cabinet if he is entrusted with a special ministry to handle the affairs of southern Lebanon.

## Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi warships intercepted a "medium-size enemy naval target" trying to approach an Iraqi port, scoring direct hits on the intruder, Iraq announced in a communique broadcast by Baghdad radio. Meanwhile, in an interview with Kuwaiti journalists reported by the *GULF DAILY NEWS*, President Saddam

Husayn acknowledged that Iraqi Super-Etendard aircraft last week attacked an Arab ship "of which the international press has spoken a great deal" — remarks which his audience viewed as a clear reference to the Saudi-owned tanker *Safina al-'Arab*, hit while carrying oil from Khark Island for a Swedish charter company. The Iraqi leader urged "brother Arab" nations not to allow their ships to be used for loading at Khark and warned that Iraq will continue to attack targets in the declared exclusion zone in the northern Gulf.

Tehran radio charged that the Saudi tanker was hit outside the Iraqi-designated exclusion zone, adding that the incident shows the Iraqi regime to be the "greatest element in the instability" in the Gulf. The attack should have made it plain to Saudi Arabia and other governments financing Iraq that such assistance is like "giving a sword to a drunken slave," the radio asserted.

In another development, an Iranian foreign affairs spokesman dismissed Egypt's peace plan for ending the war as "totally worthless and rejected," according to Tehran radio. At a time when the movement of Iranian forces has approached its "final stages" and the Iraqi regime is in the "worst possible circumstances," such efforts by countries which support Iraq are "doomed to failure," the spokesman added.

## Libya

Countries sheltering "Libyan terrorists" will be hit "where it hurts," Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi warned in a press conference reported by AFP. Stating that British citizens in Libya would not be affected by the crisis between the two countries, Al-Qadhafi warned that Britain would be responsible for what could happen to them. The Libyan leader claimed that the weapons discovered in the People's Bureau in London were "planted" by British police. Al-Qadhafi also renewed his offer to withdraw any Libyan troops in Chad if France withdraws its troops from Africa.

Meanwhile, a statement issued by the General People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison denounced remarks by a State Department official urging Europe to impose an economic and political boycott on Libya. Tripoli radio reported. The statement described the remarks as a "flagrant threat" to Arab sovereignty, particularly as the remarks coincide with NATO preparations for military exercises in the Mediterranean designed to "provoke Libya."

## 'Arafat in Jordan

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Amman, Baghdad Voice of PLO radio announced. In an arrival statement reported by Amman radio, 'Arafat indicated that the purpose of his visit is to "complete" the Jordanian-Palestinian talks.

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**Karmal Meets Qandahar Elders, Stresses USSR Ties***LD030611 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 3 May 84*

[Text] Kabul, May 2, BAKHTAR: Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA CC and president of Revolutionary Council of the DRA, received the elders and representatives of various nationalities of Arghistan district of Qandahar Province here today.

Babrak Karmal listened to the needs and wishes of the people of Arghistan district and asked them questions on the situation of their region in respect of agriculture, public health, education and the implementation of the law on the local organs and state power.

Babrak Karmal told them in a free and democratic atmosphere that the April Revolution has taken place for the welfare of the Afghan people. All the party and state employees work hard, he pointed out, for the wellbeing of the Afghan people.

He assured them that ensuring of a nation-wide security is one of the first and foremost tasks and wishes of the party and state. However, the counter-revolutionary elements at the behest of Pakistan military regime, reactionary leaders of Iran and China and world imperialism, with U.S. imperialism at the forefront, do not want peace and security to prevail in Afghanistan.

Recalling the timely assistance rendered by the Soviet Union to the DRA, president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA said that no one country can live alone in the world and must have friends at international level. Afghanistan is one of the old friends and a good neighbour of the Soviet Union who has rendered to it timely material and moral assistance in defending its independence and sovereignty.

Haji Habibullah on behalf of the nationalities of Arghistan District of Qandahar Province thanked Babrak Karmal for the proper attention paid to them by the party and the state of the DRA.

**Rebels Killed, Arms Captured in Security Operations***LD021716 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 2 May 84*

[Text] As a result of the heroic and courageous operation of the officers and men [words indistinct] 62d Battalion of the Balkh military force, mounted yesterday with the earnest cooperation of the people in Cham Qal'eh region, (Sang-e Charak) District, Jowzjan Province, 80 of the rebels belonging to the so-called Hezbe-e Eslami, along with their ringleader (Marqar), were killed. A spokesman of the Balkh military force said that 1 machine gun, 14 various light weapons, 5,000 rounds of ammunition, 1 loudspeaker, and documents proving their links with counterrevolutionary bands abroad were seized from these criminals.

As a result of the heroism of the vigilant security forces of the country a group of rebels belonging to Jami'et-e Eslami band, these servants of reaction and imperialism, along with their ringleaders Qazi Faruq, Abdor Rahman, and Karim, were

recently killed in (Dorat) region, (Shendand) District, Herat Province; in addition, a number of these criminals were arrested. According to the report of the security forces, as a result of this operation 1 DShK, 2 rocket launchers, 18 .303 rifles, 4 Chinese Kalashnikovs, 2 pistols, 2 antitank mines, and hundreds of rounds of various other types of ammunition were seized from them.

**Mujahidin Resume Fighting in Panjsher Valley***BK031020 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 3 May 84*

[Text] Latest reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have entered Panjsher valley, where fierce fighting between the mujahidin and the Soviet-Karmal forces is now in its third week. The mujahidin reportedly have inflicted heavy losses on the Soviet-Karmal forces in the valley and shot down a Soviet plane and two helicopters. Several tanks were also said to have been knocked out by the mujahidin in the fighting.

**4 Soviet Aircraft Downed***BK031023 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0500 GMT 3 May 84*

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan speak of fierce fighting between the Soviet-Karmal forces and the mujahidin in the Panjsher valley. Soviet aircraft are constantly bombarding the mujahidin's positions. Four of the Soviet aircraft were shot down during the past week. About 50 tanks and armored vehicles were also destroyed during the fighting.

Meanwhile, a senior Karmal army officer, Mr Jalaluddin Wardak, and 700 soldiers have joined the mujahidin. More than 30,000 soldiers, armed with modern weapons, are reportedly present at the [words indistinct].

Kabul radio says mujahidin launched operations in Herat and Balkh Provinces.

**Guerrilla Spokesman on Panjsher Valley Resistance***PM011226 Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 26 Apr 84 p 24*

[Undated interview with guerrilla spokesman Yaya Masud by Sven Lindqvist: "Hollow Offensive Being Repulsed"]

[Text] At the end of February the legendary guerrilla commander, Ahmed Shah Masud, knew that the Russians would mount an offensive against the Panjsher valley at the end of April. He wrote this in a letter to his "foreign minister" and spokesman in Peshawar, his brother Yaya Masud.

Yaya showed me the letter. It was handwritten using very small Persian characters on both sides of a thin piece of paper. When folded it was no larger than a stamp. It had been smuggled through the Russian lines, sewn into the clothes of a child.

[Lindqvist] How could Masud know of the Russians' plans for an offensive so far in advance?

[Yaya] He has reliable information from his contacts in the Defense Ministry in Kabul. The offensive begins with attacks on two other valleys north and south of Panjsher. The Russians want to surround us. They have a major plan in operation at present. But we are ready to repulse the attacks.

[Lindqvist] Has the defense of these three valleys been coordinated?

[Yaya] The last time the Russians attacked, one of the valleys was under the control of a party which did not want to cooperate. They did not want to help us; they even stopped our caravans of arms and food. But now both the valleys are under the same leadership.

[Lindqvist] What other preparations have you made? There has been a cease-fire for over a year now — how have you made use of that time?

[Yaya] We are better organized this time. And we have more Russian automatic rifles — in the last attack we captured over 2,000 Kalashnikovs which we are now using against the Russians. Otherwise we have more or less the same equipment as last time.

[Lindqvist] Do you have anything to shoot the helicopters with?

[Yaya] Yes, we have heavy machine guns, DShK's. But they are no good against jet aircraft; against them we have nothing. The fact that we are the most effective opposition region in Afghanistan is not due to weapons. The secret lies in our organization. That is why Masud has traveled during the cease-fire to the areas north of the Panjsher valley. At first the commanders there were suspicious. They thought that they had come to try and entice them over to his party, Jami'at. But he did not say a word about party politics, but spoke only of practical matters. The result was that everyone has now gone over to the type of organization we have in the Panjsher valley.

[Lindqvist] And what does this organization look like?

[Yaya] It is based on committees for various purposes with clearly defined powers. We have a military committee, a finance committee, a justice committee, a health care committee and an education committee. Fighting men are gathered in bases with 400-700 men each. Every base area has an attack group comprising 80 of the best fighters. All wear the same clothes, a sort of uniform: army boots, windbreakers, and (pakhol) caps (he pointed to his own cap which looks like a rolled-up woollen sock).

[Lindqvist] Why not helmets which protect the head?

[Yaya] Helmets are both too expensive and too heavy. The (pakhol) is a traditional cap which is light and cheap. We can make them ourselves. Well, all those who are in uniform have also received military training. We attach great importance to training — that is probably the main difference between the Panjsher and how things are done in other areas. We concentrate our very best men in mobile units. The men in these units do not come from the same village but are gathered from different villages. During the cease-fire these elite units have fought

against the Russians outside the Panjsher valley. Now they are being recalled to take part in the defense of the valley.

[Lindqvist] What is the ethnic composition of the people in the Panjsher valley?

[Yaya] Everyone speaks Persian and belongs to the Tajik people.

[Lindqvist] And the neighboring valleys?

[Yaya] They have a more mixed population with many Pushtuns. But the cooperation between the Tajiks and the Pushtuns is working well. For example, one of Masud's best friends is the commander in Laghman, who is a Pushtun. The last time the Russians attacked he sent his men to help with the defense of the Panjsher valley.

[Lindqvist] Is that not something new in Afghan history? In the past have the Pushtuns not seen themselves as a ruling race which would never take orders from a Tajik like Masud?

[Yaya] That is true. But this has been the case more for the Pushtun people than the Pushtun governments, all those rulers who made use of the Pushtun tribes to win and hold onto power. Even the Russians and other imperialists are trying to exploit them and create disagreements between the Tajiks and Pushtuns.

[Lindqvist] What other "imperialists" are you thinking of? Are there any imperialists other than the Russians in Afghanistan at present?

[Yaya] It is the Russians we are fighting against, that is true. But we realize that there are more colonial powers than just the Soviet Union. There are others who have similar ideas.

[Lindqvist] Such as the United States, for example?

[Yaya] Such as China, the United States, the Soviet Union — in a word, the superpowers.

[Lindqvist] The recent issue of the bulletin from the Afghan Information Center raises the problems within the resistance movement. One of the problems which worries the commanders interviewed is that in many places the population's attitude to the guerrillas has changed. People who in the past willingly cooperated with the guerrillas have grown afraid of the Russian bombardments which occur when guerrillas are operating near their villages. In other cases, the government has sent out false guerrillas, soldiers dressed as guerrillas, to commit acts of violence and give the guerrillas a bad name. Are these problems you recognize from the Panjsher valley?

[Yaya] No, we do not have these problems. They are due to bad organization. The government cannot smuggle disguised soldiers into the Panjsher valley.

[Lindqvist] But you cannot stop the bombings. And if the bombs frighten the peasant population away, who will then provide for you?

[Yaya] This is the Russian policy: Burn the villages, frighten the population away to Pakistan. It is true that in this way the Russians have created major problems in certain areas. In the Panjsher valley around 80 percent of settlements and fields have already been destroyed in earlier attacks. Nevertheless, the population has still not fled to Pakistan — they are to be found in the surrounding valleys or in Kabul. I do not think that you would be able to find eight Panjsher families here in Peshawar; they are all still inside Afghanistan.

[Lindqvist] Would you rather that they went to Kabul than to Peshawar? Is Kabul not the enemy?

[Yaya] A few have gone to Kabul. As you know, there is a resistance movement there as well.

[Lindqvist] Another problem raised by the commanders is how to get money for nonmilitary uses. It is relatively easy to get hold of arms and ammunition, they say, but they also need food, clothes, transport, and the capacity to look after other guerrillas' transports when they pass by. And there is no money for that. Do you recognize this situation?

[Yaya] In our Panjsher valley we have never been able to provide more than perhaps 12 percent of our agricultural needs. Rice, sugar, and many other foodstuffs have always been bought from outside. Now in addition the fields have been destroyed and all our savings spent. Goats, sheep, and other animals have been sold or eaten, or have been killed by the bombs. So supplying the guerrilla bases is a major problem for Masud. He has to buy almost everything from outside. We have plenty of arms and a good organization. We have good training, but foodstuffs are our major problem.

[Lindqvist] Do you not receive food via the political parties?

[Yaya] The political parties are ineffective and badly organized. The party bureaucracy here in Peshawar is too far away from the concrete problems to be able to use its money in the best way. That is why we have great difficulties with food in the Panjsher valley.

[Lindqvist] Latin American guerrillas have learned the same lesson: The political parties are not effective as leaders of the resistance struggle. Has Masud read Regis Debray?

[Yaya] He has not only read Debray, but he has also read a number of other books about the strategy and tactics of guerrilla warfare. He has learned from the experience in many countries, in particular, perhaps, from Algeria's struggle for freedom.

[Lindqvist] Soviet mastery of the air is the main problem for all the commanders interviewed. Is it also a major problem for you?

[Yaya] Yes. We could do with some antiaircraft missiles for use against jet aircraft. All the other arms the Russians are using we have a defense against. We do not fear tanks and soldiers. The Russian soldiers' combat morale is very low.

[Lindqvist] How do you know? Do you have spies in the Russian camps?

[Yaya] It is true that we have agents on the government side, but above all we have direct contact with the Russians on the battlefield. We know from they way they fight that their morale is low. In the last attack on the Panjsher valley they used 30,000 men. They lost 7,000 men and did not succeed in taking the valley. This shows clearly that their combat morale is low.

[Lindqvist] How great were your own losses?

[Yaya] When I tell you, you are not going to believe me, just as other Western journalists have hardly believed me until they have been to the Panjsher valley and seen it with their own eyes. We lost only 250 men. But of the civilian population over 2,000 people were killed. We took hundreds of prisoners, but the enemy did not take one of us alive.

[Lindqvist] I know that you defended the valley very successfully. But the journalistic reports to which you refer and which I have read do not provide evidence that you killed many Russians. None of them says many Russians are being killed. U.S. and European experts claim that the Russians' losses are insignificant. How do you know that you killed 7,000 Russians?

[Yaya] When I say 7,000, that also includes Afghan government soldiers. We get such figures from the Defense Ministry in Kabul, from the same sources which give us advance information about Russian offensives. I believe that we have more reliable figures about Russian losses than the Western experts.

It is a problem for us that the Western news media find it difficult to believe our reports. One example is that a few weeks ago guerrillas in Mazar-e Sharif captured 2,000 Kalashnikovs of a new type and killed 400 enemy soldiers. But neither the BBC nor Voice of America reported this victory. It was too difficult for them to understand. They did not believe us.

Western media put more faith in the Russians, who after every offensive proclaim triumphantly that they have now definitively crushed the guerrillas in the Panjsher valley. You will see — that is how it will sound this time too.

### 1 Killed, 15 Injured in Explosion at Political Rally

*BK021529 Hong Kong AFP in English 1504 GMT 2 May 84*

[Text] Dhaka, May 2 (AFP) — One person was killed and several others seriously injured when an explosion today rocked a rally of the rightwing Bangladesh Democratic League here today, firsthand eyewitness reports said.

The blast took place as Khandakar Moshtaque Ahmed, a former Bangladeshi president and the Democratic League chief, stood on the podium to address the rally, which was called to protest the "aggression and firing by Indian border guards" in which one Bangladeshi soldier was recently killed.

After police removed the injured and panic died down, Khandakar Moshtaque spoke for 35 minutes, lambasting India for creating problems for Bangladesh. He was referring to clashes last week when Bangladeshi forces tried to stop an Indian party from putting up a barbed wire fence along the border between India's northeastern state of Assam and Bangladesh. The border fence, planned to be in two 100-kilometer (62 miles) [as received], is aimed at stopping what India calls the flow of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh into Assam. Bangladesh opposes erection of the fence and has denied Indian charges that Bangladeshis were immigrating illegally.

Hospital sources confirmed the single casualty and said that about 15 people were injured, some critically, while others were released after first aid.

This was the second time that a bomb exploded at the meeting of Khandakar Moshtaque. In a similar explosion at a rally of his party in May 1980, nine people, including a reporter, were killed and several injured.

Khandakar Moshtaque was president of Bangladesh for 87 days following a bloody coup in August, 1975, in which the country's first president Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was ousted and killed.

### Opposition Alliance, Government Delegations Meet

*BK011355 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 1 May 84*

[Text] The first meeting of the government [and] 15-party alliance joint committee was held at Banga Bhavan last night. The 12-member government side was headed by the president and chief martial law administrator, Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad, while the 19-member alliance team was led by the leader of the 15-party alliance and chief of the Awami League, Sheikh Hasina Wajed.

After the talks, the special assistant to the president, Barrister A.R. Yusuf, while briefing the waiting newsmen said the 3-hour meeting was held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere. He said the discussions mainly centered round the modality of lifting martial law and transfer of power. The president is to transfer power to the elected government and lifting of martial law simultaneously as one transition in order to avoid any legal

vacuum or legal complication [sentence as heard]. The alliance suggested that by a proclamation, the martial law be lifted immediately and for running the country by the president with all legislative and executive powers vested in him till the powers are transferred to the elected sovereign parliament [sentence as heard]. He said the government shall determine the future constitutional system and other constitutional issues. It should also take a decision on the basis of the revival of the suspended Constitution. For the conduct of election to the sovereign parliament, the fifth and the seventh parts of the Constitution may be relied upon.

At the end, Sheikh Hasina Wajed read out a prepared statement as to the modalities of lifting martial law interim arrangement: only one election — that is, to the sovereign parliament — and transfer of power to the elected parliament.

As no copy of the statement was given to the presidential team, President Ershad said his side will try to examine the noted points and will be in touch with the alliance.

### Country Seen Purchasing 6 Submarines From PRC

*BK030026 Delhi PATRIOT in English 25 Apr 84 p 1*

[Text] In a major naval arms transaction, Bangladesh will get six submarines from China, PTI quotes defence experts in the Capital.

The first of the six 'Romeo' class submarines has already been delivered to the Bangladesh Navy recently. Describing the deal as an "unexpected event," the experts say that this would considerably enhance Bangladesh Navy's standing in this area. Each of these subs carries 18 torpedoes or 36 mines, has a crew of 53 and a range of 16,000 miles at 10 knots.

Bangladesh already has nine Chinese-supplied Shanghai-II and Hainan fast attack craft. It has ordered four more naval craft from other sources.

The Bay of Bengal region, which has so far remained a "low threat area," appears to be assuming a different character, according to these experts. The experts say that a major rearmament effort is taking place on the eastern flank of the Indian subcontinent, in the south-east Asian region, while the attention has so far been focused on arms induction on a massive scale into the West Asian Gulf region.

Negotiations are also going on between Bangladesh and China for three more squadrons of Chinese F-6 Shenyang fighter planes for Bangladesh. Bangladesh has already acquired 36 of them during 1975-76.

During the Bangladesh Air Chief Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmood's visit to China in January this year, the Chinese have reportedly offered extensive training for the Bangladesh Air Force personnel as also upgradation of the existing military facilities in Bangladesh.

**AFP: Sikh Ultimatum Demands Lifting of Police Siege**  
*BK021433 Hong Kong AFP in English 1418 GMT 2 May 84*

[Text] New Delhi, May 2 (AFP) — Sikh militants, in an ultimatum to the federal government, today demanded that the police siege around some of their shrines in the troubled northern state of Punjab be lifted within the next 40 hours, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA news agency reported. Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, chairman of the Sikh party Akali Dal, warned authorities from the holy Punjab city of Amritsar that unless the government did so by Friday, Sikh "seedhi jathas" (suicide squads) would march on these places of worship "without fearing the police bullets" to carry out the task.

The ultimatum came a day after five Sikh high priests, including the one at Amritsar's Golden Temple — the holiest of their shrines — jointly urged the government to lift the siege immediately. PTI said Mr. Longowal's ultimatum announcement followed a report submitted to him by a deputation of leading Sikhs on the plight of the people affected by the police siege.

The places of worship concerned were said to be those in the Moga town of Faridkot District. Moga was the scene of a recent shootout between suspected Sikh extremists and security forces, which resulted in the death of eight civilians.

In his press release, Mr. Longowal alleged that nearly 1,000 Sikhs had been staying in the shrines since April 26, with food and water supplies cut off as a result of the police siege. The release said Mr. Longowal also contacted federal Interior Minister Prakash Chandra Sethi and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Buta Singh by telephone here and told them that the suicide squads would act to lift the siege unless it was ended by Friday.

He announced that his community was starting recitation of their holy scriptures round the clock in Moga from today after dividing the town into four circles for the purpose.

Sikh high priests of Sikhs [as received] would lead the Squad on Friday at the end of large congregations to be held to mark the conclusion of the religious recitals (akhand paths), PTI said.

Fundamentalist Sikh religious leader Sant Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale also made an appeal to the Sikhs from Amritsar to take part in the rallies in Moga on Friday, the agency said.

Meanwhile, two shootouts and a case of arson were reported from Punjab in fresh incidents involving suspected extremists during the past 24 hours, press reports said. In Amritsar, a godown of a book publisher was destroyed in a fire near the golden temple complex this afternoon, PTI said. It was not immediately known how the fire started.

In Ropar District, two unidentified gunmen reportedly fired and seriously wounded a local chief of the breakaway "Nirankaris" Sikh sect around noon today. The victim was hospitalised.

A goldsmith was wounded in a similar incident in Ludhiana town last night. PTI said two scooter-borne youths were involved in the attack.

Near Moga, suspected extremists tried to set fire to a small railway bridge last night. They reportedly fled after an exchange of fire with home guards who appeared there suddenly. No damage was caused to the bridge nor was anyone hurt in the exchange, PTI said.

An outlawed students' organisation from Punjab meanwhile sent telegrams to the UN secretary general, the London-based human rights group Amnesty International and the International Red Cross appealing for their help in getting the siege lifted, PTI said. The agency did not identify the student body but it was believed to be the Sikh Students Federation.

**Sethi Appeals to Priests**

*BK030945 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 May 84*

[Text] The home minister has appealed to the Sikh high priests to ensure that the people wanted by law surrender themselves to the authority. In a statement in New Delhi, Mr Sethi sought the cooperation of the high priests in preventing the misuse of gurdwaras [Sikh shrines] by such extremist elements.

About the deployment of paramilitary forces in the vicinity of three or four gurdwaras, the home minister said the police force has been deployed since some of the armed criminals have taken shelter in these places. The government wanted innocent people, including women and children, to leave the gurdwaras.

Mr Sethi said apparently the few terrorists and criminals are forcibly preventing the innocent people from leaving the temples, holding them as hostages.

He said it is not the intention of the government to interfere with or in anyway impede the opportunity of worship at these places. He said the Akali leader, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal, has spoken to him and he has explained all these to him.

In a statement in Amritsar, Sant Harchand Singh Longowal urged the center to withdraw the forces from the vicinity of the gurdwaras.

Speaking at a rally in New Delhi, Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee [president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)], said the situation in Punjab is not merely a law-and-order problem but a threat to national integration.

The BJP leader described the activities of the extremists as a conspiracy to drive a wedge between Hindus and Sikhs.

The rally, which was organized by the National Democratic Alliance, was addressed by the Lok Dal leader, Mr Charan Singh, also. He was of the opinion that the sanctity of the gurdwaras will not be violated if the police is asked to enter to arrest the criminals.

Others who spoke at the rally condemned the killing of innocent peoples and urged for strong measures to curb terrorism.

## 2 Extremists Killed in Attack on Legislator

*BK030622 Delhi Domestic in English 0240 GMT 3 May 84*

[Text] In Punjab a Congress-I legislator, Mr Lakha Singh, was injured when he was attacked by some miscreants in the village Verawal in Amritsar District yesterday. Two extremists who attacked the MLA [Member of Legislative Assembly] were killed in the exchange of fire. While one of Mr Lakha Singh's bodyguards was killed, another was seriously injured. One of the miscreants killed was later identified as a proclaimed offender.

Mr Lakha Singh was rushed to the hospital, and his condition is reported to be out of danger.

## AFP: Insurgents in Tripura State Kill 3 People

*BK021619 Hong Kong AFP in English 1318 GMT 2 May 84*

[Text] New Delhi, May 2 (AFP) — Armed insurgents in India's eastern Tripura State bordering Bangladesh killed three people in a surprise attack yesterday, official reports said today. Tripura Chief Minister Nripen Chakravarty told the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA agency in Agartala, the state capital, that the incident had "definite connection" with a letter he had received from the chief of the insurgents' underground Tripura National Volunteers (TNV) recently. The letter demanded the release of all tribals arrested for association with the TNV. The insurgents, mostly Christian tribals from Tripura, have been waging a struggle for Tripura's independence. Earlier reports said TNV chief Bijoy Renghal had fled to Bangladesh.

PTI said a gang of three TNV activists gunned down the three — two guards of the government-owned forests and a laborer — at Thinani, about 68 kilometres (43 miles) from Agartala. The victims were asked to give "subscription for the TNV government" and when they said they were unable to pay, they were tied to trees and shot, PTI said.

Chief Minister Chakravarty said state police already had information that two TNV gangs had crossed over from across the international frontier last month. He added that he did not rule out the possibility of either of these groups being responsible for the incident.

Tripura is ruled by a leftist alliance, dominated by Mr. Chakravarty's independent Communist Party of India, Marxist (CPI-M).

## KYODO: Nakasone Arrives in Bombay for Visit

*OW030841 Tokyo KYODO in English 0833 GMT 3 May 84*

[Text] Bombay, May 3 KYODO — Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone arrived from Islamabad Thursday afternoon to start a four-day official visit to India during which he will hold talks with Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Nakasone is the first Japanese head of government to visit India in 23 years.

In an airport statement Nakasone said Japan and India are closely linked by commercial activity and expressed hope that economic relations between the two countries would be deepened

even further. "I sincerely hope that my visit would be instrumental in further closing Japan-India relations," he said.

Nakasone and his entourage will stay overnight here and leave for New Delhi Friday morning. His talks with Gandhi are scheduled to be held Friday afternoon. He is also scheduled to make a speech at Parliament Friday afternoon.

Nakasone will pay a courtesy call on Indian President Giani Zail Singh Saturday and then meet the press in winding up his India visit. He is scheduled to return to Tokyo Sunday night.

## Iranian Commerce Minister, Delegation Begin Visit

### Meeting With Gandhi

*LD021821 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 May 84*

[Text] According to a Central News Unit dispatch from New Delhi, Abedi-Ja'fari, minister of commerce of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who is visiting India, held talks today with Indian Prime Minister Gandhi. During their meeting they exchanged views with regard to expanding trade and commercial ties between the two countries.

### Trade Talks Begin

*BK011026 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 1 May 84*

[Text] Ministerial-level talks between India and Iran started in New Delhi this morning for exploring the possibilities of expanding bilateral trade. The Indian delegation to the 3-day talks is led by the commerce minister, Mr Vishwanath Pratap Singh, while the 55-member [as heard] Iranian side is headed by its commerce minister, Hasan Abedi-Ja'fari.

Recalling the age-old ties between the two countries, Mr V.P. Singh offered all facilities to Iran for setting up joint ventures in India's free trade zones. He expressed the hope that similar facilities would be available for India in Iran. Our correspondent understands that the Indian side has given a draft of a new trade agreement to Iran and a draft proposal has also been received from the Iranian side.

### Iran Ready To Supply Oil

*LD011326 Tehran IRNA in English 1250 GMT 1 May 84*

[Text] New Delhi, May 1, IRNA — Iran's minister of commerce, Hasan Abedi-Ja'fari, today announced the readiness of the Islamic Republic for meeting oil and petrochemical needs of India. Speaking in a meeting with his Indian counterpart, Vishwanath Pratap Singh, Abedi-Ja'fari proposed that a harmonising committee would be formed to follow up the cooperations between the two countries. The Indian minister also announced the readiness of his country for cooperating with the Islamic Republic in the transportation and communications fields as well as in petrochemical production.

The commerce minister is to hold a meeting with the Indian foreign Minister, Narasimha Rao, today.

Ja'fari arrived here Monday heading a political and economic delegation.

### 33 'Foreign Spies' Arrested in Punjab, Kashmir

BK021339 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT  
2 May 84

[Text] Thirty-three foreign spies were arrested in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir between January 1982 and October 1983. The minister of state for home affairs, Mr Venkatasubbiah, gave this information in the Lok Sabha.

### Diplomat in London Receives Threatening Note

BK021620 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT  
2 May 84

[Text] It was officially confirmed in New Delhi today that a senior official of the Indian High Commission in London had about 2 weeks ago received a threatening letter from the so-called Kashmir Liberation Army. Precautionary measures have been taken for his security.

### Rao on Sri Lanka Leasing Oil Storage Tanks

BK030905 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT  
3 May 84

[Text] India has expressed her deep concern and disappointment over the Sri Lanka Government's recent decision to lease out oil storage tanks at Trincomalee to three foreign firms. The external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, told the Lok Sabha that the agreement is said to be valid for 15 to 20 years.

The Ceylon Petroleum Corporation will also be a partner in this consortium.

Mr Rao said the Sri Lanka Government informed India that the decision was taken on commercial grounds. The storage depot will not be used for military purposes.

### Remote Sensing Satellite To Be Launched From USSR

BK021329 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT  
2 May 84

[Text] The Indian remote sensing satellite is to be launched from the Soviet Union in 2 years. An agreement on this was signed between the Indian Space Research Organization and the concerned Soviet organization.

The satellite will weigh about 950 kg and will be in orbit at an altitude of 900 km.

### Technology Developed for Use of Thorium

BK021055 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT  
2 May 84

[Text] The Lok Sabha was informed today that the country has developed a technology for use of thorium as feedstock for atomic power reactors. The house was also informed that there is no deterioration in the performance of the nuclear power plants, particularly those using natural uranium as feedstock.

### Health Minister on Epidemics, Toll in W. Bengal

BK021049 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT  
2 May 84

[Text] The Lok Sabha was informed today that over 20,700 persons in West Bengal have been affected by the epidemic of bacillary dysentery. Nine hundred and eleven persons have died, according to the information received from the state government. The minister for health, Mr Shankaranand, informed the house that the disease has affected almost all the districts of West Bengal. Mostly children up to 3 years of age have been affected.

According to a medical team of the National Institute of Cholera, people have been affected by the disease because of poor sanitation and acute shortage of drinking water supply. The center has supplied medicines to West Bengal on the state government's request. Mr Shankaranand was replying to a call attention motion by Mr (Bhajmohan Mohanti), Congress-I, and others on the reported increase in the cases of several epidemics including smallpox, kala-azar, gastroenteritis, malaria, and viral jaundice in various parts of the country.

Mr Shankaranand categorically stated that there has not been a single case of smallpox, which had been eradicated totally in 1975. The minister told the house that in Gujarat over 2,500 cases of viral hepatitis have been reported with 314 deaths. The Gujarat Government has been permitted to import the vaccine for control of the disease. The minister also gave figures of malaria cases, which were over 47,000 between January and March this year. Incidents of monkey fever in Karnataka affected 805 persons; 139 of them died. During the discussion, members expressed concern over the magnitude of the epidemic in West Bengal and expressed the fear that it may spread to neighboring states. An opposition member alleged that no preventive steps have been taken by the government in regard to the diseases.

### Briefs

**Elector to Soviet Academy** — The director general of the Indian Council of Medical Research and biochemist, Professor B. Ramalinga Swamy, has been elected member of the Soviet Academy of Medical Sciences. The academy has prominent medical men and scientists at its research establishments in the Soviet Union. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Apr 84 BK]

**Further Reports on Visit by Japanese Prime Minister****Nakasone Pledges Refugee Support**

*BK021129 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT  
2 May 84*

[Text] The Japanese prime minister, Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, has said Japan, along with Pakistan, would continue its efforts for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan, restoration of Afghanistan's nonaligned and independent status, and return of Afghan refugees to their homeland with honor and dignity. He said this while talking to Afghan refugees at Nasirbagh near Peshawar this morning. President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and the federal ministers, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and Dr Mahbul Haq, accompanied the Japanese prime minister.

Mr Nakasone said Japan did not approve of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, as it was a violation of international law and the UN Charter. Japan also did not recognize the Karmal regime in Afghanistan, as it was against foreign military intervention in any country. He appreciated the people and the Government of Pakistan for providing shelter and other humanitarian assistance to the Afghan refugees. The Japanese prime minister announced that Japan would contribute soon \$6 million for the relief of Afghan refugees in addition to \$1.5 million already given.

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, speaking on the occasion, thanked the Japanese prime minister for extending cooperation for the relief measures for the Afghan refugees.

**Ziaul Haq on Soviet Offensive**

*OW030547 Tokyo KYODO in English 0507 GMT 3 May 84*

[By Hiroshi Oshima, KYODO staff correspondent]

[Text] Islamabad, May 3, KYODO — Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said the Soviet Union has reinforced its forces in Afghanistan with "at least 20,000 to 30,000 troops" in the current offensive against Moslem guerrillas at the strategic valley of Panjsher. He made the disclosure when he met Japanese reporters accompanying Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone on his official visit to Pakistan Wednesday night.

When asked if the Soviet Union has reinforced its troops from Soviet territory, Ziaul said, "It's true." "According to our estimate and assessment," he said, "in the last three months the Soviets introduced at least 20,000 to 30,000 troops, as well as helicopters and bombers." "It's also true that the Russians have intensified their activity in the Panjsher valley in the last two weeks or so," the president said.

Western analysts have put the strength of the Soviet forces in Afghanistan at an estimated 105,000.

Despite his prediction of another Soviet offensive in summer, Ziaul said he was "not pessimistic at all" about the prospect of a political solution of the Afghan issue.

"I'm very optimistic ... not only am I optimistic by nature but also I'm optimistic by the nature of the talks," Ziaul said. Rather,

he said, "We have a good prospect," adding the recent shuttle visit between Islamabad, Kabul and Tehran by United Nations Special Envoy Diego Cordovez was successful.

Ziaul said he was convinced "the prospect of the solution we seek will be further enhanced irrespective of the Russians' summer offensive."

**Nakasone on Cooperation, Afghanistan**

*BK030054 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT  
2 May 84*

[Text] Two Japanese economic missions will visit Pakistan in the near future to further enhance the economic cooperation between Pakistan and Japan. Japan has also offered to transfer high technology to Pakistan. This was stated by Japanese Prime Minister Nakasone while addressing a news conference in Rawalpindi this afternoon. He said that one of the missions will be by the government and the other will consist of businessmen from the private sector. These missions will assess the investment atmosphere in Pakistan and hold talks on matters relating to the training of Pakistani engineers and technicians. He said the Japanese Government has adopted a positive stand in this regard, and it wants the Pakistani Government to sign an agreement to ensure the protection of investments. He said: "We welcome the liberal policy adopted by the Pakistani Government concerning investment by the private sector. He declared Japanese Government has not imposed any restrictions on setting up joint ventures in Pakistan."

In reply to a question concerning the transfer of high technology, the Japanese prime minister said that one of the methods in this connection is to create facilities for high-technology production in Pakistan and to produce high technology items here so Pakistani manpower can gain experience on the spot. The other method which is very effective is to train Pakistanis at Japanese plants and factories and assist them in learning high technology there. However, he stressed that before the acquisition of technology it is necessary to reform management, to improve relations between the workers and management, and to streamline quality control.

Referring to Pakistan's sixth 5-year plan, Nakasone said that emphasis has been placed on the private sector and general welfare of the people. He expressed the hope that the current negotiations over a yen loan for a few projects will be concluded soon. He said a model solar energy plant will be set up in Pakistan with the Japanese grant. If it proves successful, the solar energy program will be expanded to other parts of South Asia. He said President Mohammad Ziaul Haq's visit to Japan last year and his current visit to Pakistan have further strengthened the relations and friendship between the two countries, and they are moving in the right direction. The Japanese prime minister said that in addition to economic cooperation, the relations between the two countries in the cultural field are also expanding.

In reply to a question on Afghanistan, the Japanese prime minister said the present situation in Afghanistan has been created by Soviet intervention in a nonaligned country and added that this is unprecedented in history. He said he shares the

opinion of world leaders that this poses a serious danger to peace and stability in the world. He said Japan, while supporting a solution on the basis of four principles, will continue its diplomatic efforts for an early solution to this issue, particularly through the United Nations and by cooperating with other countries in this regard. He said Japan is not giving any military assistance to the mujahidin. However, Japan will continue to provide them substantial [khasi] aid until they return to their home with dignity and security.

When asked to comment on the regional situation, the Japanese prime minister said the region faces difficulties as a result of the Afghanistan issue and Iran-Iraq war. However, it is satisfying to note that signs of stability in other places are very prominent. Pakistan enjoys much influence and (?prestige) due to its geographical position in the Islamic world. He said Pakistan and Japan will try to help one another resolve these issues through negotiations.

In reply to a question on relations between India and Pakistan, Nakasone said that both countries have their value in world affairs and must play important roles. It is better and very appropriate for both countries to work for peaceful coexistence through mutual dialogue.

The Japanese prime minister paid a glowing tribute to President Mohammad Ziaul Haq for his prudence and efforts on behalf of the welfare of the common man and thanked him for the grand hospitality shown him and his delegation in Pakistan.

#### **Nakasone on North-South Ties**

*OW021331 Tokyo KYODO in English 1321 GMT 2 May 84*

[By Hiroshi Oshima, KYODO staff correspondent]

[Text] Islamabad, May 2 KYODO — Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone said here Wednesday he wants to play an active role to bridge rich countries in North and poor nations in South at the forthcoming London economic summit and other international arenas.

"I am very positive with regard to the North-South dialogue," Nakasone told a press conference at the conclusion of his three-day visit to Pakistan. When asked about Japan's possible role in breaking the current impasse in North-South negotiations, Nakasone said he wants to attach much importance to the position of the South.

Nakasone said when he attends the London summit of seven industrial democracies in early June, he will make "strenuous efforts" to achieve a harmonious relation between the North and the South. Nakasone is the only Asian participant in the seven-nation summit. Other summitters are leaders of the United States, Britain, France, West Germany, Canada and Italy.

On his talks with Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq Tuesday, Nakasone said he found there were no differences in

their opinions on most international and bilateral matters. Ziaul's views will turn out to be very useful when he goes to London for the summit, Nakasone added.

He also said the closer Japan-Pakistan relations which emerged as a result of his current visit will help Japan's diplomacy in approaching nonaligned countries and Islamic countries.

Asked about Tokyo's position on the Afghan issue, Nakasone said it was an "unprecedented" incident that the Soviet Union invaded a nonaligned country and denounced the Soviet action as a "serious infringement of world peace and stability." Although the situation was very regrettable, he went on, Japan does not provide any material assistance to Moslem guerrillas fighting the Soviet-backed Kabul government. What Japan is doing is to supply nonmilitary assistance to Afghan refugees in Pakistan, Nakasone said.

Japan fully supports the four-point principle of Pakistan, which calls for immediate withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, an independent and nonaligned Afghanistan, self-determination by the Afghan people, and a safe and honorable return home for Afghan refugees, the Japanese leader said.

On bilateral economic relations between Japan and Pakistan, Nakasone said Japan hopes to step up investment in the country, while mentioning Tokyo's decision to send both a governmental and a business mission to Pakistan soon for economic consultations.

He also said Japan will positively explore ways of promoting transfer of technology to Pakistan, especially in high technology.

Nakasone is leaving Pakistan Wednesday for Bombay and then New Delhi on a three-day official visit to India.

#### **Nakasone Departs for India**

*BK031009 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 3 May 84*

[Excerpt] The Japanese prime minister has said that his visit to Pakistan has contributed to the strengthening of confidence for future expansion of existing relations of friendship and trust between the two countries. In a message radioed from the plane to President Mohammad Ziaul Haq on his departure from Islamabad this morning, he expressed the confidence that mutual cooperation will be further expanded through the meaningful dialogue that he had with the president.

Earlier, the Japanese prime minister was given a warm sendoff when he left Islamabad this morning at the end of his 4-day official visit to Pakistan. The Japanese prime minister and Madame Nakasone were seen off at the airport by the President and Begum Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

### Atomic Weapons Capability in 2 Years 'Big Lie'

LD031308 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT  
3 May 84

[Excerpts] In a press and radio and television conference with domestic and foreign newsmen today the chief of our country's Atomic Energy Organization, expounding the aims of the Islamic Republic of Iran in completing the Bushehr atomic power station, replied to the spurious and false propaganda disseminated by the mass media subservient to global arrogance and Zionism with regard to the possibility of Iran manufacturing atomic bombs. He said:

[Begin recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Last week we saw a propaganda wave which began in the Arab press. The Western press, quoting the British publication *JANE'S DEFENSE WEEKLY*, put forward this subject resorting to various propaganda methods. The publication said that during the next 2 years the Islamic Republic of Iran would obtain an atomic bomb, and it very maliciously linked this issue with the Bushehr power station.

First of all we should point out that it will be 5 years before the Bushehr power station is ready for commissioning. Second, all those who know anything about that industry would immediately realize the baseless nature of this claim: How one could obtain a quantity of material and then manufacture a bomb from it within 2 years! That is impossible! Furthermore, that power station is only for generating power. Therefore, this British publication should be called to account for these big lies.

But why does this organization believe it should complete the Bushehr project? We have answered this before. It is because our country is in the process of constructing and therefore needs energy. It envisages certain things for its own oil in the future, and therefore it is essential that it should make progress (in oil matters). Moreover, 20 billion toman have been spent on the Bushehr power station so far, and one of its units, that is, its first unit, is 80 percent complete.

As for rebutting the report carried by the British and others, for various reasons which I now humbly give, we rebut this report:

1. We are a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency and therefore we especially respect the regulations on the proliferation of atomic weapons.

2. We are one of the signatories of the nonproliferation treaty and thus we respect our signature therein.

Furthermore, as we pointed out at the 27th meeting of the agency last year, we are prepared to set up a police force with the cooperation of the Third World nonaligned countries in order to inspect all the arsenals of the big countries and to report the same to [words indistinct]. And then it would be clear who is creating a hue and cry and who is plotting to dry up the buds of knowledge in the oppressed countries.

As to the reasons for all these rumors, surely it is that Saddam is expiring under the scourge of using chemical weapons, and we can see that the senile master of the reactionary Arab countries

has once again come to their support. By spreading such rumors he is trying to wipe out from people's minds — even for a short period — the effects of Saddam's crime at a time when our aim is to attain self-sufficiency in industry. (For without a doubt) our slogan is: Neither East nor West. [end recording]

### Musavi-Ardabili: 'Imposed Peace' Unacceptable

LD030846 Tehran IRNA in English 0805 GMT 3 May 84

[Text] Tehran, May 3 IRNA — Chief Justice Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili said here Wednesday that Islamic combatants had proven to the world that defeat was not a part of the vocabulary of the Islamic Republic of Iran, adding that the revolutionary Iran could not accept an imposed peace.

Speaking to a visiting group of members of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili referred to the harmonised conspiracies of Western and Eastern imperialism against the Islamic Republic.

Such plots, the ayatollah added, aimed at misrepresenting Iran as a war-seeking country while portraying the enemy (the Iraqi regime) as just the opposite.

### Egypt's Mediation Efforts 'Doomed to Failure'

LD021742 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT  
2 May 84

[Text] Pertaining to recent moves by the Egyptian regime in regard to putting forward the so-called peace plan toward ending Iraq's imposed war on Iran, the dispatch of delegations to sundry countries to gain support for that plan, and the call for setting up a conference of nonaligned foreign ministers, our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman said:

The Egyptian regime, cold-shouldered by Islamic and Arabic countries after its treacherous move in recognizing the Zionist regime and joining the shameful Camp David accord to which it is still insistently adhering, in order to gain political credibility and popularity by appealing to the nonaligned countries and putting forward a peace plan, has recently called for an end to the imposed war. It is endeavoring on the one hand to bring itself out of isolation, while on the other to gain political and propaganda backing for the Iraqi regime.

He added: The efforts by the Egyptian regime, which has fed the hulk of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime's war machine ever since the beginning of Iraq's imposed war on Iran and has played a substantial role in Iraq's aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran, are without a doubt totally worthless and rejected.

In conclusion, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman said: At a time when the movement by the Islamic fighters on the war fronts has approached its final stages and when the Iraqi regime, from the standpoint of its military, economic, and social position, is in the worst possible circumstances, such efforts by countries which have played a fundamental role in kindling the flames of war and in placing every kind of assistance at the disposal of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime are doomed to failure.

**Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,714**

*LD021728 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT  
2 May 84*

[Communique No 1,714 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] During the past 24 hours, fighting in the form of exchanges of artillery and heavy weapons fire continued between our powerful forces and the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries on the southern fronts of the country, being more intense in the Majnun Islands. On these fronts, the powerful personnel of the Ground Forces opened heavy artillery fire on the enemy's artillery positions, trenches, and supply and communications routes, stopped the fire of the Saddamist forces, and by setting fire to part of their defense positions killed a number of enemy servicemen.

On the Arvand Rud front, the heroes of the Gendarmerie managed to stop the movement of Iraqi forces and to completely destroy more than 26 enemy slit trenches and foxholes, 1 vehicle, and 3 mortars, and to kill or wound more than 40 Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries.

The enemy's long-range weapons fire on the city of Abadan caused some losses and casualties.

In exchanges of fire on the western fronts, the Ground Forces combatants returned fire on enemy positions, dispatched patrol groups, and defended the zones under their responsibility; while controlling the movements, traffic, and construction activities of the enemy, they destroyed nine light and heavy gun emplacements and observation posts of the Iraqi forces and killed a number of their crew.

On the Piranshah, Hajj 'Umran, and Marivan operational fronts, the fire of our Ground Forces combatants inflicted losses and casualties on the enemy. According to received reports, the Iraqi forces suffered more than 15 casualties in the Hajj 'Umran region.

On the Panjwin front, a number of enemy trenches came under the fire of our combatants and were destroyed together with their crew.

**Wounded Iraqi Division Commander Replaced**

*GF030630 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT  
3 May 84*

[Text] Quoting a source close to the Iraqi Muslim revolutionaries, IRNA reported that Major General Shaukat, commander of the 12th Division of the Iraqi Zionist army, was seriously wounded in the victorious Kheybar operations, while two of his guards were killed. According to the same report, following the wounding of Maj Gen Shaukat, Major General Riyad, former commander of the Iraqi Presidential Guard, replaced him.

This report also added that following the victorious Kheybar operations, Iraqi artillery became completely disoriented and opened fire on its own positions. As a result a large number of mercenaries of the Iraqi Army were killed.

According to the same report, raids by the Islamic Republic of Iran fighters in the (?Dhaylan) region of Iraq have resulted in the destruction of industrial centers in this city.

**Saudi Ship Caught Fire Outside Military Zone**

*LD021645 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1135 GMT  
2 May 84*

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] Very late on Wednesday, 25 April, a Saudi tanker named *Safina al-'Arab* caught fire in the Persian Gulf. The tanker, with a length of 370 meters and carrying about 350,000 tons [as heard], was hired by the Swedish Salen Tanker AB Company. The ship, according to Lloyd's insurance company, Britain, left Bahrain on 8 February and was loaded at Kharg Island before 25 April. It had been due to reach Malaysia by 27 March. Lloyd's pleads ignorance about the delay in the ship's arrival and its change of course. The ship had 37 crew members, of which one, a Filipino, was lost without trace after the explosion.

The first explosion began in tank 11 on the starboard side of the tanker and then spread along the ship. The location of the ship at the time of the explosion was 100 km south of Kharg Island and 200 km northeast of Bahrain — outside the area designated as a military zone by Iraq in its economic blockade imposed on Iran. The reason for the explosion on the tanker, according to Lloyd's, was that it was hit by a rocket or mine and caught fire.

After some time — on Thursday — when the tanker was alight in the waters of the Persian Gulf, the NBC television network, quoting anonymous U.S. State Department officials, announced that the Saudi tanker had been attacked by several Iraqi fighter planes. Although (Carson), a State Department spokesman, refused to confirm or deny this claim, Alan Romberg, another State Department spokesman, said: We have information indicating that the tanker was attacked by rockets.

Of course, no government in the world has yet protested against the mindless actions of the Iraqi regime. At a time when American imperialism has announced that it has created restricted zones around its fleets, the Baghdad regime, following the same policy, can endanger the security of the Persian Gulf. When the *Safina al-'Arab* caught on fire it should have been become obvious made plain to Saudi Arabia and other governments which contribute to the livelihood of Saddam's regime that such assistance is like giving a sword to a drunken slave.

Saudi Arabia has kept silent about the damage inflicted on its ship, just as the Kuwaiti Government remained silent about the downed Iraqi planes and the attack on the Greek tanker, since these two governments are among those which, in spite of repeated warnings by our country, continue to flood Saddam with assistance. That is why they cannot confess to their mistake. Although these countries might remain silent, incidents like the fire on *Safina al-'Arab* make it clear to everyone that the Iraqi regime is the greatest element in the instability of security in the Persian Gulf. If this security is disturbed, all countries of the region will suffer.

Of course, the silence of the littoral Arab governments in the Persian Gulf in this respect is not surprising. What is more interesting are the comments made by the USSR. Recently, Taha Yasin Ramadan, Saddam's deputy [as heard], visited Moscow, and the USSR announced that it will continue and even expand its cooperation with the Iraqi regime. In a statement issued at the end of this visit, an interesting point was mentioned which should be noted: The Governments of the USSR and Iraq condemn the efforts made by American imperialism to disrupt free shipping in the Persian Gulf. What does such a statement mean? If American imperialism benefits from the lack of security in the Persian Gulf, it is clearly the Iraqi regime, with its mindless actions like attacking merchant ships, which is trying to extend the crisis and disrupt Persian Gulf security. This fact is accepted even by countries like Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, but officials of the USSR claim that such action is a pro-American act. Therefore it is the Iraqi regime that serves the interests of the United States.

Recently, Ismat Katani, under secretary at the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs, met American officials in Washington. He announced that if Iraq hit Kharg Island, Iran would close the Strait of Hormuz and oil prices would then rise. Have the USSR officials and other supporters of the Iraqi regime not realized the fact that Saddam wants to disrupt the security of the Persian Gulf?

Our government believes that all efforts should be made in order to make the Persian Gulf free to international shipping. This can only be possible if there is complete security in the Gulf. The Armed Forces of our country, despite all the idiotic actions of the Iraqi regime, such as attacking foreign ships or polluting the waters of the Persian Gulf, have maintained security there and will continue to do so. They have succeeded until now and will continue to be successful. The steps taken by the Iraqi regime resemble the last struggles of a dying man. When, in the near future, Saddam's regime falls, then the countries of the Persian Gulf can rest easy, as the factor disrupting security will have disappeared.

**Swedish Ship Captain, Crew Grateful for Rescue**  
*GF021642 Tehran International Service in Arabic*  
 1430 GMT 2 May 84

[Text] The assistant energy minister for international affairs met in Tehran yesterday with the Swedish ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran, who was accompanied by the captain of the Swedish ship which caught fire in the Persian Gulf.

During the meeting, the captain of the Swedish ship explained how his ship exploded and thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for the assistance extended to him, which saved his life and the lives of his crew. Also during this meeting, the Swedish ambassador lauded the cooperation of the officials of Islamic Iran, especially those on Kharg Island, and its Muslim people for their efforts to put out the fire and save the crew of the Swedish ship.

**President Receives Departing Pakistani Ambassador**  
*LD021943 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT*  
 2 May 84

[Text] On the termination of his period at his post in our country, the Pakistani ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran met today with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i to bid him farewell. At the meeting, the Pakistani ambassador first recalled that during his period in office he had witnessed the various dimensions of the Islamic revolution of Iran and the stability of the Islamic Republic in all areas.

He said: As the representative of an Islamic country, I am very pleased at having served in the Muslim country of Iran. The two countries, Iran and Pakistan, strive for the aim of standing on their own feet and living independently, and I hope that political and economic cooperation between the two countries will develop as much as possible. Pakistan sets a high value on Islamic culture and the Persian language, and in fact the splendor of Pakistan is that of Islam, which was spread in Pakistan by Iranian clergymen.

In conclusion, the Pakistani ambassador referred to the fact that the Government of Pakistan endeavors to support the Iranian view in all international gatherings, and prays for the life of the imam of the nation.

President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i then wished the Pakistani ambassador success in his future posting and said: You have been a successful emissary in our country, and you have managed to bring sincere relations and affection between the two countries as close as is possible. During your period in office you have witnessed one of the greatest events in the modern world, and have observed the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy of neither East nor West. This decisive policy of our country has resulted in hardships for our nation, which, on the path toward achieving this policy, and fighting against these hardships, has created the greatest epic in history, and this is one of the principles of our foreign policy.

Recalling that the common aims, culture, traditions, long borders, and firm treaties are what govern the sincerity and affection between the two countries, the president said: These friendly relations between the two nations and governments are supported by some, but arouse the enmity of others. These relations have caused enemies to set about confounding them or inhibiting their growth. We were aware of this at an early stage and we think we have had some success in thwarting their hopes.

**Meetings With Syrian Planning, Tourism Ministers Held**  
*LD021824 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT*  
 2 May 84

[Text] In continuation of his visit to Syria, our country's minister of roads and transport, Hadinezhad-Hoseyniyan, met and held talks with Syria's minister of tourism today. During the meeting the minister of roads and transport referred to expanding bilateral relations, saying the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran would like to increase the volume of tourist exchanges between the two countries through air and land tours, a step

which would have a worthy effect on strengthening understanding and cultural and social cooperation between Iran and Syria.

Syria's minister of tourism also emphasized the necessity of adopting the requisite measures toward expanding the volume of tourist exchanges and encouraging activity in that field between the two countries. He referred to that move as the best step toward strengthening the two nations' historic ties.

According to an IRNA dispatch, our country's minister of roads and transport also met with the Syrian minister of planning today. During the meeting they exchanged views on strengthening and expanding relations between the two countries.

#### **Revolution Committee Official on Guards' Role**

*LD021933 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT  
2 May 84*

[Text] The deputy commander of the country's Islamic Revolution Committees, in a press, radio, and television conference held today, explained the activities of this new institution of the Islamic revolution in connection with the fight against narcotics, smugglers, counterrevolutionary elements, and splinter groups for the period 21 March 1983 to 20 March 1984, the formation of modern organizations in Tehran and its suburbs, and long-term plans.

Referring to the advent of the anniversary of the birth of the third bright star in the sky of imamate and velayat, Revolution Guard's Day, he asked the Revolution Guards to guard the ethical, spiritual and cultural values of Islam through their Islamic and humane behavior toward people. Emphasizing the fact that the Islamic Revolution Committees have staged an extensive

struggle along the country's international borders against international narcotics gangs and inside the country against addicts and pushers, he added: In the past year more than 48 metric tons of narcotics were discovered by the Islamic Revolution Public Prosecutor's Office of Tehran for possible medical use. Out of a total 29,145 persons arrested in this connection, 21,527 were smugglers and 7,618 persons were addicts.

He then referred to the formation of the Committee's air unit in the past year, saying: With the cooperation of the Air Group of the National Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran, this unit was set up with the aim of chasing and sighting armed smugglers in desert regions and along trails in the east of the country. Spectacular successes have been achieved in the training of technicians and pilots.

The deputy commander of the country's Islamic Revolution Committee then explained the activities of this revolutionary institution in the fight against counterrevolutionary and splinter groups. He said: Wherever it is felt that a group intends to disrupt law and order in the Muslim society and to endanger the country's security and people's peace, the Islamic Revolution Committee guards, by their presence and self-sacrifices, will give them a crushing response.

Explaining the modern organizations of the Islamic Revolution Committee in Tehran and other cities, the deputy commander of the Islamic Revolution Committees said: Bases will be set up in every region in accordance with population and geographic size. People can refer to these bases when reporting violations.

He added: In the current year, through plans which have been put into practice, individuals attempting robbery, disruption of the country's security, or violation of the law will be dealt with directly and their cases followed through.